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FARMER AND PLANTER.

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, MECHANICS, DOMESTIC AND RURAL ECONOMY.

VOL. IV.

PENDLETON, S. C., NOVEMBER, 1853.

No. 11.

The Farmer and Planter

Is published monthly at Pendleton, S. C.,

GEO. SEABORN & J. J. GILMAN,

Editors and Proprietors.

R. F. SIMPSON & F. BURT,

ASSISTANT EDITORS.

TERMS.

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| 6 copies one year " " " " | 5 |
| 25 copies, " " " " " " | 20 |
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From the Plow, the Loom and Anvil.

Rotation of Crops.

In English papers, this is a constant subject of discussion. The precise order of rotation, and the number of years to be occupied by the series, for producing the greatest crops, are regarded as questions of very great practical importance. In that country, where the lands are highly cultivated, it may be deserving all the attention given to it. Some crops seem to possess the power of rendering available elements over which others have no power. Their roots penetrate more deeply, or are more abundant, or perhaps have a peculiar organization which gives them some special adaptation to appropriate nutriment inaccessible to other plants.

The same question is sometimes brought before us in our own journals, and even here it is no doubt worthy, oftentimes, of careful consideration.

But we would guard our readers again t

one grand mistake. When a soil contains all that is necessary to make it fertile, a given crop exhausts the available portions of one or more of its elements much more rapidly than it does others. Hence, the repetition of the same crop for several years may in the end leave the land utterly destitute of those given elements, while it contains an abundance of all others. When this is the state of things, it is obvious that it cannot produce another similar crop, while it may be able to produce one of a different character, or requiring different elements.

But what is the result of thus tasking the land? Continuing the same crop, a small one only can be obtained; but by changing it, it may, for the time being, be more productive. But what is the final consequence? *While manure is withheld*, instead of being destitute of one, it becomes destitute of several elements, and if the process is continued, is made totally barren, and requires a general and thorough renovation before it can produce any thing.

We have seen this course pursued by tenants for a term of years. Having exhausted the power of the soil to produce one growth, they plant another with tolerable success. This exhausts it in its turn, but in a different way, and ere long there is no crop for which it has the necessary aliment. But his lease has expired, and he has no further use for the land. The owner can do with it as he pleases.

The first course alluded to is like driving away one swarm of insects with which your horse or yourself may be covered, to make place for a fresh supply of others as hungry as the first were at the beginning, and so progressing from bad to worse. But the second, the process of rotation without manure, is but another illustration

of sacred writ: "that which the canker-worm hath left hath the palmerworm eaten." Thus, corn requires more silica than peas, peas and kindred plants more nitrogenous manure than cucumbers and melons, &c.

Ordinary farmers overlook one very important feature in the system of rotation. We refer to a season of rest and of plowing in green crops, with which it may be qualifying itself for abundant harvests in future years. They see the evil of cropping the same growth year after year; their scanty harvests proclaim this in a voice that cannot be unheeded; but if they can change the crop and receive in return a bare recompense for their labor, they are satisfied. Thus they go on, till at last they cannot gather even a crop of beans. What then? Do they thoroughly manure and allow a season of rest. Not at all. They sow grass-seed, perhaps; and mowing the growth of every year till they find this unprofitable, they turn it into pasture, and require their cows and oxen to find on it what they could not find—a liberal supply of feed. It is thus we imitate the habits of others, leaving out, partially if not exclusively, those very things which give value to the general system, omitting that which can alone secure for any growth an abundant harvest.

But even this season of rest is not enough. Manures, as we have seen, are as essential with a rotation of crops as without. The kind of manure may be modified with the nature of the growth, but the supply of some manure, and that which is suited to the condition of the soil, is indispensable in any system of farming, and in the growth of any variety of crops.

The rotation system has been thought

unwise, because unnatural. If left to itself, each plant scatters its seed around its own roots, thereby securing a permanent succession of the same growth. But in this case, nature does what the farmer does not. She returns the entire growth to the same soil which produced it, with the addition of a large amount of organized elements derived from other sources, as air, water, &c. But, again, this is not always true. In forests, when the growth is cut off, we often see a different species growing in its stead.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Horse Shoeing.

MESSRS. EDITORS: We have for a long time thought the fashion of shoeing horses objectionable. A little common observation, a slight examination of the structure of a horse's hoof, and a little common sense might work wonders in the way of reform. The common practice of making the inner part of the shoe concave, the outer part convex, with heels and corks, is not what the shape of a horse's hoof would suggest. Look at it. The inner part of the hoof is concave. The outer rim of it, evidently from its shape, is designed to receive the concussion, and of course is so constructed as to be safe from any injury. Common sense would suggest the propriety of making a shoe conform exactly to the natural shape of the foot, the outer rim being the sharpest and most projected, and the inner part of the shoe convexed, so as to fit closely to the hoof. The shoe should conform to the foot in shape as nearly as possible; the heel should be no higher than the toe, and the whole shoe the same thickness. The heel should slope back as the hoof does, and like the rest of the shoe, conform to the shape of the hoof, and it should not project back too far. Different modifications will become necessary, according to the gaits, habits, &c. of the animal. The hoof should be mutilated (i. e. cut and rasped) as little as possible, and never should be changed in its formation, if natural, for you may rest assured the rest of the machinery is adapted to work with it.

Neglected Fertilizers.

Not long since we were struck with astonishment at the pother the "City Authorities" of Charleston were making about the refuse of the markets and the slaughter pens. Grave committee men, with fear and trembling, doubtless holding protein to their olfactories, kerchiefs

well scented with spirits of ammonia, visited the slaughter pens, and were struck with amazement at the amount of overt filth, and still more at the pigs which were allowed to luxuriate in the reeking heaps.

The city of Charleston is connected with the Northern cities by steamboats and Railroads. Her climate is a month earlier than New York or Boston. The city of Charleston is backed by a region of country admirably adapted to market gardening, through which a railroad and a plankroad runs, always accessible. Is it not strange that thousands of tons of the richest manure should be annually pitched into the water, to be carried off by the tides, and keep the people in constant dread of disease, when it could be converted into wholesome peas, beans, cabbages, potatoes and tomatoes, and sold at a handsome profit the moment it is thrown upon the market? In some parts of the world large premiums are given by gardeners for the privilege of cleaning off the market stalls and slaughter pens. Here the case is reversed. The market gardeners will not take it when paid to do it; and yet thousands of dollars are paid by them for Guano and fancy manures. Will we never learn to do better? We are dull scholars, really.

But one need not go off as far as Charleston to find fault. It is a good rule to sweep around our own doors before going abroad to clean up. In riding over the country, how often is one's nose turned up at the effluvia rising from the droppings of some anti-book farmer's cattle, which have lain from time immemorial, in the big road in front of his house. How many fence corners do you know, dear reader, "chock full" of the real stuff, which has been accumulating for years. How many old woodpiles by the wayside, where the wood has been thrown and cut up since you were a boy? How many piles of leached ashes by the old "hopper" or lesser heaps about the Negro quarters? How many pens where the hogs have been fattened grown up in Jamestown weeds, dock, poke, Jerusalem oak and May pops? How many old tanyards, where thousands of bushels of tanbark lie, one of the best manures for potatoes and strawberriew, and one of the best divisors for the compost heap that can be found? How many old coal pits, where thousands of bushels of coal dust could be procured to spread upon your grass lands, or scatter over your dunghills, stables and cow lots, to save for you the fertilizing gases which are continually evaporating? How

many piles of straw and chaff and litter about the plantation? How many dead carcasses thrown by the roadside to offend the eye and pollute the atmosphere, which would make "two blades of grass grow where only one grew before?" How many of us have improved the talent given to us?

BROOMSEGE.

Curl Leaf of the Peach.

What causes the curled leaf in the peach? The disease is coming to be a serious one. Out in Western New York some of the culturalists complain that they will have to abandon the peach crop entirely, unless a remedy is soon discovered. Where are the peach doctors? Come, gentlemen, turn out. Hasten to look after your patient. The peach is our special favorite among fruits. It must not die yet—it is not down in the books. It must not lose any of its juiciness, plumpness, delicacy of flavor or luscious taste. Its vigor must not all run to down. The staple of the wool on its cheek is already long enough. Men must die, but nations, unless we except the Sandwich Islanders and the Indians generally have no business to die. We have no objections to having a fine old tree that has supplied one whole generation with its fruit, die when the fulness of its time has come, honored in its good old age. But to have whole orchards of peach trees, scarcely old enough yet to be in their prime, take on the curled leaf, grow unproductive, and die at last, unregretted, is a shame, if it can be helped, and a misfortune any way.

The doctors have put their heads together. Their golden-headed canes are up to their noses. We hope the consultation will result in the benefit of the patient and its troops of friends, and redound to their honor. They do not quite agree as to the cause of the curl. They used to say that aphides poisoned the leaves; and we had to believe it, though no microscope should reveal a single specimen of the aphidic loafer. Some said that a fungus sapped the life of the leaf, and it grew shapeless and uncomely at its expense; but if so, the fungus must be in the in'ards, for the skin of the leaf is as smooth and fresh and handsome over the curl as elsewhere. The fungus, then, must be in the cellular tissue—a kind of boil, furunculus or carbuncle. Greatly, then, do we pity poor peach leaves. When we have boils we groan dismally. When patient Job had them he growled at his wife—not half as much as she deserved, though—put his friends through, and talked noble poetry.

When Napoleon the Little had them, he thought over his great uncle's oaths, and stirred another handful of hoarhound into the decoction he was preparing for crazy France. But these boils the peach trees have borne without a murmur. The delicate leaves have twisted and turned and doubled themselves up in silent agony. Nature gave them a great deal of hydrocyanic acid, but they haven't used it to poison us with; subduing it—their temper, their flavor and fragrance have drawn their chief charms from its wisely modified presence.

Some said that the cold weather was the cause of the curl, but unfortunately for this theory, nobody but a theorist can construe into cold weather some of the warm days of May, in which they do their curling.

Others still say that the cause is diseased sap, which may be true, but which is about as practical an exposition as if a horticulturist should say that the disease was owing to an improbable depravity of the ligneous atoms, and a scarcity of essential virtue in the fluid constituents of the plants. It would be cheaper and less hazardous to explain it as a pompous old medical ignoramus used to explain the inexplicable symptoms of his inquisitive patients: "Well, madam, it will do so sometimes;" which, being gravely said, was accepted as a sufficient explanation of sundry occult symptoms which the young doctors had tried in vain to solve.

The Genesee Farmer regards the presence of mildew and insects that have been found upon these diseased leaves as the very natural consequences of the disease. The ruptured bark, the stagnant sap, the oozing gum of a feeble and degenerate leaf being reason enough why aphides should visit, and mildew attack it. The cause he conceives to be the sudden change from warm to cold weather, as if he should say the tender leaves took cold, and in their humility, like men who have a bad cold in their head, wrap themselves up, and of course do not get along as well as if they kept themselves open to sun and air.

The Country Gentleman thinks that vigorous growth is the best remedy, having observed the trees which were copiously supplied with manure, and freely shortened-in during the preceding winter, generally send out strong, new shoots, almost wholly free from the disease, and that they are well loaded with fruit. The Farmer responds that hardy varieties should be selected and planted in situa-

tions somewhat protected from the cold west and northwest winds.

At it again, gentlemen in the country and practical farmers. Argue and theorize, experiment and observe. If you save the peach trees you will do a job more to our taste than to save a tyrant or to prop up a rotten government. The man who makes a bushel of peaches to grow on a tree that would have produced but a peck, and diminishes the number of fruit to the bushel; who, improving the flavor, thickens the domain of the pulp, lessens the diameter of the pit, and reduces the wooly coat to the minimum required for the peach's well-being, ought to have a medal at the World's Fair, deserves well of his countrymen, and should be buried where no commissioners will disturb his bones when the order to widen the streets is promulgated, or rude ploughshares impiously expose them because another owner has bought the lot.—*N. Y. Times.*

From the Charleston Mercury.

The Scuppernong Grape.

"The great aphorism of Bacon, that man discovers truth so far only as he makes himself the patient interpreter of nature, receives a new or a vaster application than he himself probably designed, when he uttered that wise and pregnant sentence."—*De Bow's Review.*

To illustrate the above aphorism, based on wisdom, let me relate a comparatively humble but lately discovered fact, and now practically settled, by close observation.

I shall simply preface my statement of facts by saying that the people of the Southern States are more or less acquainted with the Scuppernong vine. Its native and most congenial place is granted to be the eastern portion of North Carolina. It is there, also, where its fruit was first converted, or rather manufactured, (by drugging it with sugar and alcohol,) into a soi-disant wine, which is a misnomer; since the people of North Carolina, pretty generally, never ferment the Must into a vinous beverage. Still, this wine must be considered a great blessing to this country. It is unique in its physiological structure and functions. It is extraordinary in its great productiveness. Its fruit is luscious and sweet, and abounds in tanning principles, or self-preserving elements, though the skin is thick, the seed large and numerous, the pulp mucilaginous; still, nature has placed this vine and its fruit on a very high platform of natural improvement, and has imparted to it an aromatic bouquet pe-

culiar to it. This high natural condition is greater than that of any fruit or grain that man has gradually civilized and improved, by continual and careful cultivation, and which now is his daily food. In conclusion, I have always looked upon the Scuppernong as the grape that was to be the most profitable of all those American varieties that came to my notice, and the American champagne grape par excellence, its aromatic bouquet making it superior to the Pinot, or Pineau of Champagne.

Full of this idea, I, four years ago, began to study its habits, and especially its circulation, so much complained of. The universal impression and experience of all seemed to establish as an undeniable fact, that the Scuppernong could not be pruned or touched with the knife, at any season, without causing it to bleed to death, or nearly so; and therefore it was allowed to spread out in luxuriant wildness over a large extent in a few years, and in a few years more it became an unmanageable mass of dead wood in the middle portion; its vigorous wood on the extremities of the arbor only bearing any fruit. This feature of this vine was, in my mind, an insuperable objection to its being adapted to yield a staple produce, easily and cheaply managed. This wild condition caused its bloom to be not a unit, but it continues to bloom for a long time, a single flower after another, the natural consequence of which is, that you see on the same vine, or even in the same small cluster, berries in every stage of progress, from entirely green to completely ripe fruit. This is a very objectionable condition, since you cannot have one vintage; since such discordant elements can never yield a unit of fermentation, which is indispensably necessary, in order to make wine, and not vinegar.

This wild condition causes this vine to produce also scattered small clusters, having only a few berries on each, which renders the gathering of the vintage laborious and expensive. All, or nearly all, these difficulties could be surmounted in the course of time by cultivation, if the vine could be pruned; therefore, the principal thing necessary to be found was the comparatively quiescent state of the circulation, or the period when the vine could be pruned with perfect impunity; from which would follow, as a natural consequence, the easier management of the vine, the concentration of the sap into fewer fruit buds, and consequently a greater number of berries on the same

cluster, and in course of time, by careful cultivation and appropriate manuring, would cause the fruit to have even a thinner skin, fewer seeds, less muelage, more sugar, and milder tanning principles. Though it is only three years since I have applied my discovery of the circulation of the Seupernong to its education, still it has already given a sure and clear evidence, (in a more or less degree in its various parts,) of the tendency of the vine to bring to pass the reasonable consequences above mentioned.

The safest and only period for pruning this vine, is just at the time when it has been disburdened of its ripe fruit. I have come to this positive result, not only by logical reasoning, that the sap must be least abundant when it had gone through the most exhausting process that the vine is capable of, that of reproduction, but by actual experiment upon them every month in the year, I have come to the demonstration of this discovery; and it is equally certain, as general experience had established before, that to attempt to prune it at any other time, the vine dresser is sure to kill the stock and ruin the vine.

This I beg you to publish, not to gratify the idle inquisitiveness of the New York Evening Post, but in the hope that it may do some good to our Southern Planters.

Very respectfully, J. TOGNO.

Dicotteaux, Sept. 1, 1853.

Port Wine.

The commerce of Oporto is the subject of an article in Hunt's Merchants' Magazine for September, in which some interesting items of information are given respecting the manufacture and exportation of Port Wine. We are told that:

"The yearly exportation to the different ports of Europe, Brazils and North America average 36,000 pipes, at least, 25,050 of which are shipped to England. With the United States they exchange their wines (the average is 3,000 pipes a year mostly of the second quality) for staves, masts, rice, whale bone, cotton and naval stores; but the transactions between the two countries are almost insignificant.

* * * * *

The wine, which is the principal resource of Oporto and the surrounding districts, is made in a certain part of the country, placed on the right bank of the Douro, from between ten to twenty leagues distant from the city. The principal entreport is a small town called A. Regoa, from which all the wines are sent in small flat-boats down to Oporto and Villanova. The

Douro wine in its primitive state is not fit for shipment. In the wine lodges of Villanova it always undergoes a process of purification with the white of eggs, and of strengthening, through the addition of strong white brandy and of some old wine. By the repeated turning, shaking and mixing of the liquid, the wine is brought to that perfection which makes the Port wine so acceptable and celebrated in all foreign countries. What is known in America as pure juice, is called in Portugal geropiga, and is generally used to give strength and an agreeable flavor to wines, either naturally too poor, or having lost by age part of their power. It is the first juice of the grape put to boil until it is reduced to two-thirds of its volume, when one-third of first rate brandy is added to it, which gives to the stuff a high grade. In many instances sugar, also, is added, and the juice of the elder berry, which, by its deep color, gives to the stuff an appearance of a strong-bodied wine."

From the Economist.

Horse and Ox Labor.

The discussion of the comparative efficiency of horse or ox labor in general work has lately been revived by a writer in the North British Agriculturist. Practically, the farmers in all the improved districts have decided the question in favor of horses. They are recommended by their superior activity, especially for carting and road work. But it is by no means clear that, upon heavy soils, where the farmer wants in certain seasons and at some periods of the year to command a much larger motive power than he requires to keep constantly in use, ox labor might not, to a certain extent at all events, be advantageously employed. Besides in the districts where ox labor is mostly employed, the ox has scarcely fair play given him when put in competition with the horse, for he is usually scantily fed while at work and sold off to be fattened almost as soon as he arrives at mature age. An experienced English agriculturist, who has lately returned from a two years' sojourn in South Australia, tells us that nothing there struck him more than the magnificent ox teams of most of the opulent settlers. He says that he never before had formed any adequate notion of the immense power of oxen when well fed, and kept exclusively with a view to their working power. They are kept there in work as long as they are fit for labor, just as we keep our farm horses in this country, and they usually continue to be worked until the age of fifteen or sixteen years. At from seven to twelve years of age they are in their prime, and the size and power of such animals is such as we have no conception of from any ox-teams we see in England. Our informant says, that when in the neighborhood of Adelaide, he has often stood and gazed with surprise and admiration at the ox-teams of

some wealthy settler bringing in from the country districts enormous loads of wool for exportation. Their high condition, great size, often varied colors—though red is the prevalent color—and prodigious horns, form altogether a spectacle of rural power and beauty not to be surpassed. And this we believe to be the right method of using ox labor in this country, viz.: to treat him solely as a working beast; for by the ordinary system of working oxen for a few years, and then just when they have become useful and powerful workers to feed them for the butcher, is a costly plan of making beef, and an ineffective mode of executing farm work. In fact, before an ox attains the age of five years, when he just begins to be useful as a working beast, he ought, if the shambles be his destiny, to have been converted into beef at least one or two years. To produce meat profitably the ox should be fed off before the end of his fourth year at latest; whereas at that age he scarcely becomes valuable as a worker. Different kinds of oxen, too, are required for working and feeding. Nothing can compete with Shorthorns and Herefords for the latter purpose; but for working only, we believe the Sussex breed would equally surpass all competitors.

The increased facilities for transmitting produce now afforded by railways is another reason for keeping fewer horses, and on strong lands we are convinced that the farmers might usefully substitute mature and well-fed oxen for some of their horses. The writer we have referred to, in a great measure supports this view. He says, after referring to the causes which have induced the generally existing preference for horse labor—

The comparative abundance, then, of winter keep, is one of the circumstances which has materially altered the question, as to the comparative advantages of oxen and horses. The other change that time has brought about is the rails, by which the long and heavy carriages required for farm purposes can be accomplished without the intervention of the farm carts, further than the transport from the station. This precludes the necessity of having carts much upon the road, for which species of work cattle are supposed to be less useful than horses. Allowing, then, for the change which the above circumstances have made, the question remains for agriculturists to decide whether cattle would not work the general work of the farm, that is, plow, harrow, grub, and go in the threshing mill, as well as horses—if so, then it will be submitted that a very important saving may be effected in the farmer's expenses.

We doubt, however, whether the plan he proposes is that best adapted for the economical employment of ox labor. It is this:

The system, then, which the writer would recommend, after a good many years' experience, is this. That cattle should be introduced to the yoke at 2 or 2½ years old; that they should be selected with a view not only to work, but for capacity of growth and improvement; that four cattle should be substituted for each

pair of horses laid aside, and consequently that each pair of cattle should work only one yoking. With this amount of work, it is confidently stated that the animals will grow and thrive fully better than mere store beasts—the work seems to be no more than wholesome exercise, rather developing than checking their growing powers. Their feed during the period of working to be nothing but grass in summer, and turnips and straw in winter. In this way they will be worked till the end of the turnip-making in the second year, when they will be put up for feeding off, and as they will at that time be mature and not old, the highest price ought to be got for them from the butcher. Upon this system it is thought that a saving of about 20% per annum may be effected upon every pair of horses.

We believe this plan attempts to combine two inconsistent objects, the production of meat and farm labor by means of the same animal, and that those objects would be more profitably pursued separately. Oxen have sometimes been objected to as slow, but it has been repeatedly proved that, if well trained and kept, they will in plowing step as quickly as horses.

From the Newberry Sentinel.

Report on Cotton,

READ BEFORE THE NEWBERRY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Placed, as we are, in the genial climate of the "sunny South," the cultivation of cotton will ever engross the greater share of the farmers' attention. It matters not what may be spoken or written to the contrary. It matters not what portion of the cherished cotton crop goes annually to Kentucky in exchange for hogs and mules. It matters not whether his cattle—those miserable looking moving skeletons—stand under a shelter, or are left to tread out a miserable existence in the cool blasts of a winter's storm. It matters not whether there are any ornaments added around his "cottage home," such as would bring a smile to the countenance of the friend of his bosom, and make home a spot to him dear above all others. Nor does it matter, to him, what may be wanting, cotton *must* and cotton *shall* be raised, and, having it, wants all else.

Such being the case, it is proper that we should enquire as to the best mode of cultivating this plant so as to produce the greatest amount of lint from a given quantity of land. Cotton, like all other plants, receives from the soil food peculiar to itself, and is, therefore, better adapted to one soil than to another. In the choice of land for planting, this should ever be taken into consideration. As a general rule, sandy land, or that in which sand predominates, is best suited to the growth of cot-

ton; besides furnishing the food required for the growth of the plant, it pulverizes and settles, in working, better around the roots than the stiffer clay soil.

As to the mode of preparation for planting, there are various opinions. Some assert that the young plant never thrives well until the tap root reaches the hard or unbroken soil, and prepare accordingly; from such opinions we dissent. Others, with more plausibility, contend for a deep and thorough plowing, giving to the young roots a deep and loose, yet sufficiently firm soil into which to descend and extend themselves in all directions in search of food and moisture. If the previous crop was cotton, a deep furrow may be drawn between the rows, and having beaten down the stalks, let them with all the litter be drawn with hoes and tramped into this furrow; and in this furrow also let whatever manures intended for this crop be placed, upon which let a ridge be thrown with a side plow, as deep as can be drawn. If done with a two-horse plow it would be preferable. This should be done near the first of March; the remainder of the bed may be finished just before planting. It is supposed that all stock has been kept off of such ground; if not it should be well broke about the first of February with a turning plow, perhaps it would be well also to use the subsoil plow.

Land which has not been in cotton, should also be broken deep with a turning plow, and ridged at the time and as above stated. The rows should be from 30 to 40 inches wide, according to the quality of the soil; as a general average 32 inches would do.

The great object in the plan here stated for preparing the bed, is that any vegetable matter thus drawn into the first furrow and covered by ridging upon it, may be well decomposed before planting.—Then by breaking the remainder just before planting, we have the bed entirely fresh on which the young plant may commence its growth.

In planting, the first object should be to have the cotton elevated that the cool rains of spring may run off and leave the earth as dry as possible; any superabundance of moisture now, during the cool nights of spring, will cause injury to the young plant.

To effect this, the bed should be opened to the depth of about three-fourths of an inch. This may be done by having a piece of timber three inches square and about two and a half feet long, into which the plow should be inserted, so that the piece

will run lengthwise the bed. The lower side should be beveled to a sharp edge. This run upon the bed will open a straight and smooth trench into which to drop the seed.

The seed should be evenly drilled by a careful hand, putting about three pecks, and never more than one bushel, to the acre. When there is time it would be preferable to "dibble" the seed, and this should always be done where children are employed in planting. To cover, a flat piece of timber about twelve inches square, and about four inches thick, hollowed in front one inch and a half or two inches deep, and about three inches wide, sloping gradually each way towards the back, which should not be hollowed any. The open front will throw sufficient earth upon the seed, while the slope each way towards the back will compress the earth firmly around the seed; which together with the elevation of the plant on a high bed, will in a great measure free it from the disease commonly known as "sore-shin." When the young plant is fairly up, work should be commenced; if the bed has been prepared, and is yet loose, the hoe may be first used to advantage; if not, the plow must precede the hoe. The plow used should be of good length; and that which is usually called a *scooter*, or side plow, bent the wrong way, so as to throw most of the earth into the middle of the row, would perhaps be preferable. If it is necessary for the plow to precede the hoe, it should always immediately follow. The dirt should be thrown from the cotton so as to leave it on a narrow ridge, which will admit the warmth of the sun down to and even below the young roots. It will also have the effect of draining any superabundance of moisture from the plant, which, at this season, requires more heat than moisture. Little dirt need be drawn to the cotton at this working, merely scraping it away, leaving about three stalks in a place where one is intended to stand. This is done to guard against any casualty that might cut off a full stand.

At the next working or so soon as squares begin to form, it should be thinned to a stand. Here the judgment of the planter must be exercised; the stand left must always be according to the quality of land in cultivation. When too close, the boll will be small, while the appearance and texture of the lint will be injured.

The frequency and character of the subsequent workings, will readily suggest themselves to the practical farmer. They should mostly be surface workings. The winged or buzzard plow only should be

used; from its make, it possesses the quality of throwing the earth to the plant in a more pulverized state than perhaps any other plow we use; besides this, it is the most labor saving plow we have.

J. S. REID,

One of the Committee.

From the Southern Planter.

Hole and Corner Club of Prince George County.

It has been justly said that "he who makes two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow on a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together;" and to effect these things, so as to make the earth yield its fruits in due season and profitably, the forest must be felled and new lands brought into cultivation, or worn lands must be improved by a judicious system of manuring, liming and culture.

No comparison can be made, as a matter of course here crops are made on *new land*, yet all good judges can ascertain if its owner has so improved such ground as to obtain more from it than could be obtained by the ordinary process of clearing and cultivation. But when new land has been subjected to the plow and hoe, or worn lands have been taken up and improved, the skill, untiring industry and prudence will place their fortunate possessors before their neighbors as men of zeal in the good cause of agriculture, and a rich reward awaits those whose practice comes up to the standard of excellence. But unfortunately for the improvement of our good old state too many of her sons, men who ought to be ornaments to adorn, instead of drones, eating the bread of idleness, look upon agriculture as the merest drudgery, and disdain even the theory of agricultural improvement, as if their bright views of renown would be darkened and their high hopes for a brilliant future disappointed by coming into contact with an employment which feeds countless millions, and is beginning to find mental food for thousands of the talented of this and other countries. But so it is—and when the friends of improvement look forward they are almost disheartened at the work to be done before Virginia will take the first rank in improving her soil.

But for fear this communication may become too long, the undersigned will now present to the readers of the Planter an annual statement made by Mr. Charles Friend to the Hole and Corner Club of Prince George County, Virginia. The

Club requires its members to make an annual statement embracing the number of acres of land improved, the number of acres in culture, and how many cleared, how many laborers are regularly employed on the farm, how many horses, mules and oxen are thus employed, and the amount of their crops, together with the amount expended for manures, lime, plaster, &c., before the successful candidate can receive the premium. Messrs. Friend, Jordon and Russel became competing candidates for the premium, hence the statement now submitted for publication. It may be proper to state that Mr. Friend took possession of his farm in 1839. In that year he expended \$346 in manures; this amount being the minimum; and in the year 1847, \$414 17, as the maximum amount in any one year: the whole amount expended between those years (and inclusive) being \$2243 83.

In 1839 he reaped 342 bushels wheat; in the year 1848 he reaped 2400 bushels.

The attentive reader will perceive that the additional wheat in 1848 paid for all manures up to that period, and all intermediate crops were so much clear gain after deducting the minimum crop of 1839 from all succeeding ones.

The committee will now give the statement for 1852.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Amount of straw applied to land | |
| 42 four-ox loads per acre | 12 acres. |
| Amount of putrescent manures, | |
| 70 one-horse loads per acre | 39 " |
| Amount of Guano 150 lbs. per acre | 40 " |
| Amount of clover 1 gallon per acre | 80 " |
| Amount of plaster 1 bushel per | |
| acre | 30 " |
| Total | 201 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of acres in wheat | 135 |
| Number of acres in corn | 100 |
| Number of acres in oats | 60 |
| Number of acres in meadow | 2 |
| Total number of acres in culture | 297 |
| Number of acres of land cleared | 12 |
| Number of laborers engaged on farm | |
| 7 men, 6 women, 6 boys—total . . . | 19 |
| Number of mules and horses | 10 |
| Number of oxen | 3 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Amount of Crops made 1852. | |
| 3969 12-60 bus. wheat at \$1 per | |
| bushel | \$3,969 20 |
| 2250 bus. corn at 60 cts. per bus. | 1,350 00 |
| 16,000 lbs. oats at 8 cts. per lb. | 528 00 |
| Total | \$5,947 20 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Expended for clover seed | \$48 00 |
| Expended for plaster | 10 50 |
| Expended for guano | 143 00 |
| | 201 50 |

Bal. after paying for Manure &c. \$5,745 70
Or \$302 40 per hand.

This statement is given to the readers of the Planter, hoping that others belonging to Clubs will follow our example, and thus, though at a distance, let us compare results. If this report is approved of, others of a like character will follow, embracing the statements of Messrs. Jordon and Russel.

J. A. PETERSON,
JOHN H. BATTIE,
CORIOLANUS RUSSELL, } Committee.

CHOKED CATTLE.—This is a subject with which I have had some experience, but since the discovery of the following method of operation have had no difficulty in relieving in all cases where it has been applied. When an animal is discovered to be choked, it should as soon as possible be placed where it can be handled, and an instrument of the following description forced down the throat until it is relieved. Take a tough piece of timber the size of a good whipstock, from three to four and a half feet long, a ball of yarn or some soft substance put on the small end—a piece of soft leather drawn over it and confined to the stick with a cord or twine tied around above the ball, and secured from pulling off by means of notches cut in the stick; the ball should be from one to two inches in diameter, in proportion to the size of the animal, and greased when used. Such an instrument may be used without any danger of injury to the animal operated upon. I have used it with perfect success with choked swine in several cases.

But in general, a preventive is better than a cure; therefore, perhaps I cannot render a greater benefit to the feeders of neat cattle than to inform them, if not already acquainted, with a simple, but I think infallible remedy against cattle choking when feeding; they may get choked when running at large, but when animals are to be fed with any article with which they are liable to get choked, place them in the stall, or tie-up, and simply put a bar or stick over their necks sufficient to keep them from raising the head above the level of their bodies; they never get choked—try it.

—A man may be known by the company he keeps.

Hiring Negroes.

The following correct views in relation to Negro hiring we take from our excellent exchange, the Southern Planter. The practice of allowing Negroes to hire their own time, which, by-the-by, is contrary to our laws, and which encourages them to steal rather than work, to make up their monthly hire to be paid to the master, is much more reprehensible, in our opinion, than that of allowing them to choose to whom they shall be hired.—Eds. F. AND P.

We have proposed for some time past to write one or two essays on the management of Negroes, but various business engagements and the desultory life of an individual who has to read, write, electioneer and solicit contributions for a paper, and at the same time to manage a large plantation, not in the best manner, by the way, leave us but little leisure for the preparation and reflection we would bring to the task. We have not proposed to undertake this task from an idea that we possess a peculiar fitness for it, or that our own management is unexceptionable, or even much better than ordinary; but we have long perceived that herein lies the greatest defect of slave agriculture, and we think that the attention of every slaveholder ought to be called to it.

For the present, we shall limit our remarks to one department of the theme which it is appropriate to speak just now because in one month more it will be too late for a year to come.

We allude to the hiring of Negroes. As this thing is at present conducted, it is an injury to all parties, the hirer, the hiree, the Negro himself and society at large. Formerly, the owner himself exercised some care in selecting a master for his slave, and placed him where, in his judgment, he ought to be; but now the Negro is permitted to "choose his master," as it is called; in other words, he is permitted to exercise a faculty of which he has less than of any other quality, to wit, *discretion*, and under circumstances which leave him no room to give fair play to what little he has. The strongest characteristic of the Negro, whether it proceed from his original nature, or the circumstances in which he is placed, is idleness. And when this liberty is allowed him he will select that master who will grant him the largest license in that respect. The consequences are what might be expected; he either selects a master who he knows will indulge him, will exact but little labor, and grant him many privileges and a good deal of time for himself, or he is bribed by money, or the promise of privileges, to

live with some one who, possibly from hope of a certain profit to accrue from a modicum of labor, is willing to take him on such terms, and thereby plants the germ of rebellion in the contract for obedience, and stipulates himself into a certain amount of servitude.

The insubordination of Negroes in Richmond, attributed, as it has been, to certain other causes to which it is not due in any great measure, if at all, is mainly owing to this mode of hiring. If a tobaccoist agrees to give Negroes five or ten dollars to get them to live with him, allows them to hoard themselves for a pittance, which is but another name for grog money, and grants them privileges which are not less demoralizing to their characters than deleterious to their health, it should not be deemed surprising that the overseer in defence of his own life is sometimes compelled to substitute the pistol for the lash. If servants in private families are permitted to act as nightly porters at railroad depots, to get money as they can by occasional jobs, to lead idle lives, to roam whither they will, to give suppers, sometimes champagne suppers, and to go quit of punishment or reprimanded for many a fault, we cannot wonder that drunkenness, discontent, mutiny and sometimes crime, should supervene.

And when the farmer or planter so far forgets the proprieties of his station as to electioneer with Negroes whom he wishes to hire, he must expect to lose respect of the slave, and be compelled either to deal rigorously with him in the outset, or to relax the discipline of his whole plantation, to the injury of his own Negroes, the derangement of all just accountability, and the consequent detriment of his affairs.

One would suppose that deductions as obvious as these would be made by all—and so they are. But none are willing to act on them independently. Each distrusts another's inflexibility, each fears the influence of competition from his fellow, and so all follow a road which will do more to render the slave worthless than all the efforts of Garrison, Birney, Beecher, Stowe, Hale, and that whole class of fools and Pharisees, who, under the guise of philanthropy, would feed fat their grudge against a people whose attributes and privileges are at once their envy and their detestation.

And all this is owing to the simple fact that the old rule is reversed, and he *man* enquires, aye, enquires with insolence, into the character of the *master*. "Are you

for hire?" said the late Judge Scott to a likely black. "I am, sir, what is your name?" "John Scott," said the Judge. "Very well," rejoined the black, "I'll enquire into your character, sir, and if I like it, I'll come and live with you." The Judge never made another effort to hire. We could fill pages of the Planter with similar cases, many of them coming under our own observation, and some of them within our own experience, for we, too, have met the scowl of the hireling.

Under such circumstances salutary restraint becomes intolerable to the Negro, as it is to all other men when release can be had by demanding it, until presently he not only refuses to choose a master, but refuses to accept one at all. We have known all the Negroes belonging to one estate to act in this manner, compelling the disheartened and disgusted agent to send them to their master to be sold. It is within the observation of some who will read these remarks, that last hiring season, about Charlottesville, masters were compelled to persuade, exhort, and even pay their own Negroes to go where they had been hired. And not a few who were prevailed on to go over the mountains to work in the Valley came back and refused to return in defiance of command and entreaty, thereby subjecting their kind hearted owners to whatever forfeit the nature of the case made necessary. Thus, by a just and necessary reaction, the owner has his share of inconvenience, chagrin and humiliation, and is made to feel—only in reverse—"the horrors of slavery."

What is true of Charlottesville is doubtless true of every town, village and hiring station of Virginia; and it is felt everywhere to be a serious evil.

We are no alarmists. We have slept with our doors wide open when insurrection was talked about, and never expected to close them from that cause. We have no dread of any such consequences, and no anticipation of anything else than such occasional and solitary acts of violence, rendered somewhat more frequent, perhaps, by this cause, as have always occurred in every society, only more rarely in the slave States than in others. All our fears in this regard are for the Negro. We do not anticipate abolition either from the insurrection of the Negro or the freak of the fanatic. When it does come, it will be brought about by the worthlessness of the Negro. He will be liberated because bondage don't pay. And we do not wish to see him liberated *before the appointed time*; because we prefer the state of socie-

ty which is built upon a slavery basis, as on the whole superior to any other as at present organized. We do not wish to see his value impaired, his happiness diminished, his civilization retarded; nor do we wish to see the industry of the country crippled, its products diminished, its development checked, and the migration of the Negro accelerated beyond the natural and safe current of events. Yet all these must result, if there be not some corrective of the deplorable practices of those who own and are responsible for the slave.

Whence proceeds this thing? Not from fear in any case, unless it be, in a very few cases, fear that the slave may abscond, but from an indisposition to use the necessary energy, from a conviction that the Negro will bring his value from somebody and give no trouble in the getting it—from that sort of weakness which is called good-heartedness, the dislike to hurt the Negro's feelings, by curbing him and making him feel the difference between master and slave, and from the fear of being thought "a bad master." And the hirer, who must have the labor, is compelled to succumb, or lose his money. This is the whole secret. Now it is foolish—"we beg everybody's pardon," as Mr. Webster said—but it is foolish thus to sacrifice so many interests to the weakness of the master and the caprice of the slave.

We do not mean, in remedy of this evil, to indicate a harsh discipline as needful to preserve order among slaves. On the contrary, we believe it injurious to their character and to their masters' interests, as it is repugnant to the feelings of every refined nature. But we do maintain, what all experienced men must concede, that certain restrictions are necessary, and that punishment, moderate but certain, if deserved, must be used to enforce them. The sensibility which pleads for large liberty for Negroes, as for children, is a morbid one. The Negro is, in some respects, a child—all his life a child; he cannot be fully operated upon through the moral sense; and always, at present, more degraded in freedom than in bondage, humanity, even more than policy, requires that he shall not have too much discretion. Nothing is more true than that where it is the duty of one set of men to command, and of another to obey, that implicit obedience is absolutely necessary. There is no safety to any party but in full obedience to wholesome laws founded on the necessity of the case and an enlightened moral sense. In this case the necessity

cannot be set aside—it is absolute; and religion, humanity, justice and common sense call upon us to stand up to our responsibilities under it. As the parent is wrong who permits his child to choose his teacher, so in kind, but worse in degree, is the master who permits his slave a license which all the promptings of his nature lead him to abuse.

We say, then, let masters assume a manful responsibility—let them do their duty with firmness; let them choose a good home for their slaves, where they will be well worked, well clad, well fed, well watched, and well whipped if they deserve it, and let them compel the slave to accept this provision; let the refractory be dealt with in a summary manner. When this cannot be done, it is far better for the slave that he should be sold to those who have too much regard for him and themselves to try and take care of himself. And we say to those who hire, combine and refuse to take a slave except from his master or his master's agent. Better do as we have done, offer a bounty of five dollars a head to those who will not consult their slaves. There is not a farmer or a housekeeper or manufacturer or tradesman or mechanic in town, who would not find it to his interest to do so. Concert to that effect, especially in cities, can easily be arranged when men set to work about it. We hope, though we feel it to be against hope, that they will do so and remedy this great and growing evil. Had we not deemed it such, we had not written these remarks. We have been advised not to do so. "We will shock people," say some kind friends; we will "injure the Planter." To this, after weighing it carefully, and in the spirit which dictated the admonition, we have only to say that the thing is an evil, existing among us, not to be concealed from ourselves, or not worth concealing from anybody else. It requires a remedy, and some one to propose it; and if we are to suffer because we have ventured to prescribe for what comes strictly within our province, be it so. Whatever others may do, we will do our duty.

POULTRY HOUSE.—The poultry house should be whitewashed spring and fall. The floor should be sprinkled with sawdust, ashes, charcoal dust or dry sand, and cleaned out at least twice a week. The nests should be lined with moss or short straw, and sprinkled with a small quantity of flower of sulphur, to keep lice off of setting hens. When the hen comes off with her brood, the nest should be burnt.

Corn Culture.

An esteemed correspondent, "S. Y.," of Essex county N. Y., objects to making large, high hills in hoeing corn, for various reasons: 1. Because such hills shed rain, and suffer more from drought than flat ones, or none at all. 2. Corn gives out more suckers when hilled up, which is considered a damage to the crop. 3. It keeps the corn more backward; it does not ripen so early, as it gives out a new set of brace roots every time it is hoed. 4. It costs three times the labor to cultivate the crop with the excessive use of the hoe that it does to rely mainly on the cultivator and plow.

We beg to assure our eastern friend that corn growers in Western New York and the Great West, produce millions of bushels of this important staple without ever taking a hoe into the field at all, except to plant, and often not for that.

His suggestions about not planting corn too thick, particularly where one desires to raise pumpkins or beans between the rows, are judicious; as is also the caution not to cut the roots of corn plants with the hoe in cutting up weeds about the hill. He plants on green sward turned over just before planting; and instead of spreading manure before plowing, it is applied afterwards, and harrowed in before the ground is planted. In a postscript he says:

"I always make use of a preparation [for soaking seed] that I found in the *Genesee Farmer*, in 1846, May number, page 107. It came to hand just in time. I had a piece of ground that I intended to plant to corn, and it was full of *wire worms*; I used the preparation with beneficial results, and I do not know that I lost a hill of corn that year by the worm. I have made use of it every year since with great benefit to the crop—*enough to pay me for the Genesee Farmer fifty years at its present price.*"

As many of our subscribers may not have the volume of 1846, we again place on record the "preparation" alluded to. It consists in dissolving two pounds of copperas in sufficient soft or rain water to cover a bushel of seed corn, in which it is allowed to stand twelve or fifteen hours. To a peck of this soaked corn, there is added a pint or more of soft soap, and the two are thoroughly stirred with a stick till every seed is coated with the soap. The corn is then dried sufficiently for planting by adding ground plaster, and again stirring it.

Mr. Lansing Wetmore appears to have first recommended the above preparation

in the *Farmers' Library*, and found it to increase his crop 33 per cent., besides keeping off insects and birds. His experiment appears to have been carefully made, and resulted in giving him a gain of 200 bushels of ears for copperas, soap, and plaster, worth not to exceed sixty-three cents.

[*Genesee Farmer.*]

From the Charleston Mercury.

Agricultural Science.

We, the people, are accustomed to look to the public journals for information and instruction. They are the guides of the community, and leaders in directing every purpose which is intended to promote the welfare and advancement of the state. I therefore call your attention to a question which intelligent men are constantly asking, and to which hitherto there seems to have been no adequate answer. Why is it that South Carolina does so little for the agriculture of the state? Why is it that she carefully and munificently fosters every kind of instruction, except that which is so essential to her prosperity? She is emphatically an agricultural state. Agriculture is the business of the highest and humblest of her citizens. Why has she no Professorship of Agriculture in her College, no school of Agriculture within her limits?

The State College does her honor, and has conferred advantages of exceeding great value. But while she cultivates the minds of her youth in classical learning, general literature, rhetoric, logic, and mathematical science, she gives them no lesson on the principles and practice of the most important of all sciences. Among the common places with which political writers, and stump orators, are used to tickle the ears of the plian, honest, but unlearned farming class, one is to assure them of the honor and dignity that belong to the man who succeeds in making two blades of grass grow where one grew before.—And what is the consequence of this flourish when the speaker takes his seat in the Legislature? Is it to use the necessary means for teaching his constituents how to perform this exploit which he has so loudly eulogised? Not at all. He will lend his aid to make our young men lawyers, or doctors, or preachers. He will establish military schools to teach our lads the mysteries of the drill, how to march and counter march, and handle their muskets with adequate skill; but he gives no thought to the poor farmer's necessities and rights. He never once thinks of those blades of grass that make so pleas-

ant a picture in his exercises of rhetorical talents. They have withered away, and, having served the purpose of tickling the ears of the groundings, are abandoned and forgotten.

Now, of the youth of the state, how many are intended to become professional men? Not one in one hundred. How often will an occasion arise for the application of that military science which is taught at the expense of the farmers? Not once, probably, in a life time. When, and by whom is agricultural knowledge required? By the whole people—by rich and poor, high and humble, educated and ignorant. And yet the care and wealth of the state is exclusively devoted to the cultivation of the few, and to a preparation for the rare occasions that may happen but once in an age.

It may be said the instruction imparted at College is intended for the general improvement of the mind—to make our youth accomplished scholars—to embellish their minds with literature and learning—and not for mere professional preparation. But even in that point of view, the advantages accrue to a very small number only. Of the young men who go to College, the proportion is very minute that is able to acquire the tastes and knowledge of a cultivated mind. The mass of even college bred lads fall back, on leaving college, into the ordinary pursuits of life. When their education is completed there, they begin to learn the first principles of what is to be their constant occupation.—They are sons for the most part of planters. They have been trained in grammar schools, Academies, and at college. They return home, when graduated, to cultivate their farms. Not one in ten has the slightest knowledge of his business. They do not know the trees and shrubs on their plantations, the nature of their soils, the qualities of their manures, the habits of the insects that destroy their crops. Their practice is all empirical: They learn by successive losses. If they succeed at all it is by the sacrifice of many harvests.

But the danger is that they may never succeed at all, our mode of education not only does not fit our young men for the business of their lives, but it really unfits them for it. Not merely the knowledge, but the taste for the occupation of the farmer is to be acquired in early life. The college withdraws the young student from the country. He acquires habits and tastes at variance with its pursuits, labors, and even enjoyments. I say nothing of the vices incident to college educa-

tion, and which arise chiefly from the circumstance that most students have no calling whatever for literary pursuits.—They are idlers, and, like all idlers, have a proclivity to evil practices. But, independent of this, the college life has nothing in it of rural life. Nothing connects it with the country. It is sedentary not active; a life of gossiping and light-reading, and segars and merchauns, not of attention or labor. It is suited admirably to make its undertakers dawdle and saunter through life. For the mass of students it is fitted for nothing more.

I hope it will not be supposed that I desire to depreciate the noble bounty of the state in establishing a college, or that I undervalue the glories of science and literature, for the cultivation of which such institutions are necessary. Far from it. I honor them with my whole heart. They produce the immortality of nations, and constitute the true dignity of the human race. But highly as I value Homer and Virgil; they are for the few, not for the many. Even for one who can appreciate them, I desire something more, if he is to farm his own land. If he understands and admires Virgil's elaborate description of the plow ever so well, I would still wish him to have some practical knowledge of the use of it. While he delights in the poet's praises of a country life, it is of the greatest importance that he should acquire a taste for its occupations. Even for such a man agricultural education is essential. His teaching is incomplete if, intending to be a farmer, he begins his work knowing nothing of farming. AGRICOLA.

From the Charleston Mercury.

The Small Grains.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The cultivation of the different kinds of small grains has not yet received from our planters that attention which they so fully merit and so amply repay. It is pretty generally proved that Wheat cannot be produced on our Sea Island lands, but it is not necessary to go far from salt water in order to be able to grow it with reasonable success. When it can be grown so cheaply, I can see no reason for devoting every effort to the production of a staple so uncertain, and at times, so unprofitable, as Cotton, and depending upon other States to supply us with wheat flour, which can be made quite as good and as cheaply at home.

To raise Barley, it is absolutely necessary that it should be sown in land rather sandy, and either naturally rich or made so by liberal manuring. Barley is not used among us as food, but when cut green

is the sweetest, and among the earliest of all the small grains, and when ripe, furnishes excellent and very early food for horses and poultry.

Rye can be grown in almost every soil, even the poorest, though it prefers a sandy one, and the product very materially depends upon the fertility of the soil. For cutting green it is neither so early nor so palatable to stock as wheat or barley, but it can stand severe cold and close pasturing much better than either of them.

The oat is the most valuable as well as the most generally cultivated in the lower country of all the small grains.

For cutting green or pasturing, September is the proper month for sowing all of these grains, but when the grain is the consideration October is the better season. When sown later, both wheat and rye are less productive, more liable to rust and more uncertain; while oats and barley may be profitably sown during the months of January, February and March, though the earlier they are sown, the more productive and certain the crop will generally prove. An excellent time to sow oats is the first half of January, as when sown at this time they will be up and green before the cold spell that we usually have in February, which would kill them if in white sprout.

The largest and best crops of all of these grains that I have ever made were made, by running a furrow with a small plow, whether barshare or bull-tongue on the cotton, corn or pea beds, as close to the stalks or vines, which need not be cut for this purpose, as can be done conveniently, turning the earth downwards, into the alley. The grains are then sown by hand, and covered by another furrow, of the same plow, taken from a little higher up.

The quantity of seed necessary will materially depend upon the fertility of the soil and the time of sowing. Early sowing and fertile soils require less seed than late sowing and poor soil, when sown in the above manner about one half the usual quantity of seed per acre only is required as it tillers much more; when a large crop is desired, and the cotton seed can be had, six parts of cotton seed may be mixed with each part of grain, and the two sown together. It is easy to judge when the sowing is thick as desired. I have successfully tried another plan in potatoe land, where no hogs are kept or allowed to have access; this consists in stripping down the vines and siding or undermining the hill as usual, then strew or

sow the oats, &c., over the vines, &c., and cover by pulling with care, the earth from the middle of the bed across the alley, so as to cover all or most of the seed. Crops sown in either way neither admit of nor require any further cultivation, even in very stiff soils, resist drought or rains much better than when sown in the usual way, and produce very nearly, if not quite as much. The past season I sowed $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of Rye and 4 acres of oats to the hand, by the first method, without missing the labor required to sow the crop, and although the spring was unusually unfavorable yet I made the largest crop of both of these grains that I have ever made, and both filled well.

I have made good crops of both Rye and Oats by plowing up the land, trench furrowing every 25 inches with the bull tongue plow, and covering with another furrow of the same plow; but when thus sown, they require to be worked in the spring at least once, and the best cultivation then in stiff soils, is one furrow of a subsoil, or rather ground-mole plow, which breaks up the soil three or four inches deep. Without some such plowing, the crop on such soils is apt to be poor, even though worked through with the hoe. This working can very seldom be given without much inconvenience. The crop thus made, even though it may sometimes prove a better one, yet always costs much, and sometimes more than it is worth.

If the corn stalks, &c. are at any time cut down, these crops might, even in bedded lands, be harvested with little labor or loss of time, by using the reaping machine of either Hussey or McCormick.

In connection with the above subject, I would say that I have seen most of the straw cutters made in this country, and tried several, and have no hesitation in recommending the one now made by R. Sinclair, jr., and Co. of Baltimore, as the most efficient and durable, and in the long run, the cheapest that I have ever seen. It cost in Baltimore is \$30. freight to Charleston \$1. Yours respectfully.

AN ISLAND PLANTER.

THE USE OF FRUIT.—A medical writer makes the following remarks:

"Instead of standing in any fear of a general consumption of ripe fruits, we regard them as positively conducive to health. The very maladies commonly assumed to have their origin in the free use of apples, melons and wild berries, have been quite as prevalent if not equally destructive, in seasons of scarcity. There are so many erroneous notions entertained of the bad effects of fruit, that it is quite time that a counteracting impression

should be promulgated, having its foundation in common sense, and based upon the common observations of the intelligent. We have no patience in reading rules to be observed in this particular department of physical comfort. No one, we imagine, ever lived longer or freer from the paroxysms of disease by discarding the delicious fruits of the land in which he finds a home. On the contrary, they are necessary to the preservation of health, and are therefore caused to make their appearance at the very time when the condition of the body, operated upon by deteriorating causes not always understood, requires their grateful renovating influences."

How to Catch a Sheep.—In catching sheep, never catch them by the wool on the back, as it hurts them exceedingly, and has been known to kill them, particularly in hot weather, if they are large and fat. Indeed, the best way is to avoid the wool altogether, and to accustom yourself to take them by the hind leg, or what is better, by the neck, placing one hand under the jaws, and the other at the back of the ears, when, by lifting up the head, a child may hold almost any sheep. But much depends on how a flock is treated. Few people are sufficiently gentle with sheep. In Maryland and south of it, sheep are rarely approached near enough to touch or catch them, except as farmers are themselves treated, in all countries, and alike by tyrants and demagogues, when, they are to be sheared or slaughtered.

By kind and gentle usage, and occasional salting, a man may have his sheep so tame as to play with them, as every man that has a heart will sometimes do with his dog. At any rate, the feeling and thoughtful farmer will never suffer his sheep or any thing else under his guardianship to be unnecessarily terrified or ill-treated.

Preserving Herbs.—There are few persons who would not be occasionally benefited by a cup of good herb tea. I do not mean such as is made from herbs dried in the sun, and boiled for half an hour in an old tin cup. Such a mess as that would make even a well person sick, who had ever known a better plan.

By attending to the following directions, all country people can have good herbs; and if they wish to give a city friend some acceptable trifle in return for their dinner when they go into the city shopping, let them roll up and carry a good bundle of various kinds of herbs, for in the city even a very small package costs sixpence, and a large proportion of stems at that.

All kinds of herbs should be picked as soon as they begin to blossom, the dust rinsed off, the leaves and flowers stripped from the stems and spread on tins or clear paper and exposed to a moderate artificial heat till perfectly dry and crisp, then put away in a clean dry place. When required, make the tea just as you would green tea for the table. Herbs are better dried in the shade than in the sun, but a moderate heat from the stove or oven is still better.

[Rural New Yorker.]

SUMATRA PHEASANT GAME FOWLS.



MESSRS. EDITORS: I now present you and your readers with a picture of my Games. The likeness is correct in the main, but it fails to do the hen justice, she being much stouter, deeper through at the butts of the wings, and standing much more erect than is here represented.

And now let me ask you, Who wouldn't raise Game fowls in preference to all others? Beautiful, symmetrical gallant and courageous but not aggressive, the game cock never permits an intruder into his walks under penalty of death. When I speak of *Game fowls* I mean it, and *nothing else*. You will hear almost every body say they have game fowls, when, really, they are not more than one-fourth game. You will also hear ignorant people (and I have no doubt you have seen the same in agricultural works) say that it is difficult to raise game fowls, owing to their pugnacious disposition. Now let me say, once for all, that *real* game chickens are not quarrelsome until about six months old, and it is best then to separate the cocks, or they will make a Kilkenny cat affair of it. It is true, a game hen never permits anything to interfere with her brood, and this I like her for. A hawk never gets more than one chick from a game hen, and he is very often sorry he got that; and I must say that I have not lost a chick by the hawks since I have been breeding the Sumatras.

In the June number of the Northern Farmer for 1852 I find the following relative to the Sumatra Pheasant Games:

"We now introduce to the poultry fanciers of this country the most celebrated *game fowls* now known. We are not in favor of cock fighting, by any means; but as we have undertaken to furnish a truthful history of the gallinaceous tribes, at least, those of the most important and valuable breeds, we should fail to do justice to our subject if we omitted the games. In some sections of our country the rearing of fowls for the "pit" is quite extensive, especially at the South; and the repugnance of the people in those sections to the practice of pitting them is much less than at the North. The indomitable perseverance and courage of the Sumatra Pheasant Games is worthy our admiration. They will fight as long as enough of their body hangs together to retain the vital spark, and they yield

to nothing but death. We are confident that Dr. Bennett does not overrate them, as we have much corroborative evidence of their enduring powers and unflinching courage when pitted."

Dr. Bennett, who, by the way, is an extensive breeder of these fowls says, in the same number of the Northern Farmer:

"The Sumatra Pheasant Games may be thus described: Head small, with a powerful beak; eyes lustrous, quick and fiery; the comb is what is known to cockers as a "pea-comb," from its resemblance to a pea blossom; that is, it is a small serrated comb, studded upon either side by a smaller comb, giving it the appearance of three combs; but some of this breed have single combs; wattles small, with a very small dewlap; hackles of the neck and loins very long and brilliant; tail long and drooping, or horizontal, with abundant plume feathers sweeping the ground; body slim and very symmetrical; legs sinewy, with a powerful and muscular thigh; bottom of the feet and skin of the body of a bright yellow; color of plumage variable, but I generally prefer to breed the black, or very dark, as a matter of fancy.

"The Sumatra Pheasant Games are among the very finest of the Wild Indian bloods, and compare favorably with any of the game race. Like all well bred games, they never cringe—they never cower before the steel, nor quail at the terrors of the bloody pit. They were imported into Boston, from the island of Sumatra, by Mr. J. A. C. Butters and Mr. Joseph Munceel, and closely resemble the Bengal Games in general contour, with the exception of the length of the neck, which is usually shorter. The small pea comb and tiny wattles of this breed of games require but little trimming to fit them for the pit.

"The males have a small dewlap like the Wild Indian Mountain fowl, but never have the muffler, which is always to be found in that unique bird. They are fast and indomitable fighters, and their other qualities are the same as other high bred games. Their plumage is usually brilliant, and their symmetry unsurpassed; in fact, I should not consider my game stock complete without the beautiful Sumatras."

Dr. Bennett's description is very good, but he says "some of this breed have single combs." Well, if they have, I have never seen them. Of some thirty that have been in my possession the past summer, not one had a single comb. The cocks all had the pea-comb, studded on both sides with a very small comb. Some of the hens

have no comb, but as the song goes, only a place where the comb ought to grow. Mr. Butters, the importer of the Sumatras, in a letter to Dr. Bennett, also published in the Northern Farmer, says:

"As to the history of the Sumatra Pheasant Games, I can only say—I received 4 hens and 1 cock of this breed direct from Anger's Point, Island of Sumatra, India, April, 1847. These fowls are found there in flocks of 20 or more, and fly across from the Island of Sumatra to the Island of Java; the natives call them *Pheasants*, and are very choice of those they capture and breed. They are kept almost exclusively for fighting there; the natives get them very domestic. I have spent considerable time in finding some history of them in print, but have not, as they are distinct from the *Bankia cock*, that being quite small, and carries the tail erect, like the Seabright Bantam. There is the skin of one of the same at Washington, D. C., in the collection of the U. S. Exploring Expedition. I took a drawing of it last fall when there—it is the same fowl. It was in a cabinet of birds from the East Indies—at that time they had been numbered, but no account had then been printed. These fowls have proved to be most excellent layers. I do not exaggerate when I say that they will lay a *greater weight of eggs than any other breed, in the same time*. I say *weight*, because there is so much said about the large size of the Cochins, China, Shanghai, &c. &c. The Game eggs appear small, but, like the fowl, are of extra weight; the flesh is unsurpassed by any domestic breed; they are small eaters; very quiet when acquainted with each other, and do not quarrel as much as bantams, but when opposed by a stranger, their tenacity of purpose and courage is unequalled by any bird. They do not come to maturity before the end of a year. If you will examine the spur of those sent, you will see that it is not set firm. They ought never to strike a blow until the spur is firmly set to the leg. I have but one breed of fowls and have had no other for nearly four years; I have bred Game Fowls for over eight years (for sportsmen mostly.) The superiority of the Sumatra over all other game breeds is their natural strength, compactness of body and feathers, and unusual intelligence and natural willingness to be handled, and when trained are perfectly at home in any place. They can be made Generals in a short time." "Sportsmen have to come for Sumatra Pheasant Games on all important occasions."

Truly does Mr. Butters say that the flesh of the Sumatra Pheasant Game fowls is unsurpassed by any domestic breed. I have eaten of it (notwithstanding they are worth from ten to thirty dollars per pair) and can say that it is one hundred per cent. better than the flesh of the common fowl. One game egg is worth two eggs of the common fowl. It may be asked why the Sumatra Pheasant Games are of all colors. The following extract of a letter from Mr. Butters to myself will explain it:

"Near eight years since, I imported from the Island of Sumatra 4 hens and 2 cocks; 4 hens and 1 cock were received, and from them has sprung the present stock. But one of the old ones survives. Their color was as follows: The cock was a black red, dark legs, beak, &c. 2 hens were of a glossy green black, 1 of a dark brown, 1 of a *leat* or *blue* color, yellow legs. Although the color varied, the size and form of the birds was very uniform. The last named hen, the blue, yellow legged one, proved to be such a hard character that I bred from her and gave her the preference to the others; therefore I have in my stock at this present time more light colored fowls than dark."

I have a cock and hen descended from Mr.

Butters' favorite yellow-legged hen. The cock has yellow legs, but I have bred but very few chickens from him this year, owing to his being very young, preferring to breed from an older and more vigorous black-breasted red-backed Sumatra Pheasant game cock; but experience has taught me that a young cock is preferable to an old one to breed from.

Dr. J. C. Bennett, one of the greatest fowl fanciers in the world, if not the greatest, got a pair of the dark colored Sumatra Pheasant Games from Mr. Butters, and he generally breeds them of that color, though they will not all be of that color, some of them being mottled. I have a hen of the Dr. Bennett stock, pronounced by good judges to be the prettiest hen they ever saw, notwithstanding she was in bad condition, having just come off with a brood of chicks, and not yet in full plumage from her late moult. She is a green black. For my own part I prefer the light colored ones, with yellow or red colored legs. Most persons like the beautiful bronze color, peculiar to this breed of fowls. There is no other game fowl that will compare with them in richness of plumage, unless it is the Wild Indian Game Fowl.

Mr. George A. Smith, of Macon, Georgia, a great fowl fancier, from whom I got a pair of light colored Sumatra Pheasant Game Fowls, writes me respecting them:

"As I stated before, I got the hen from Mr. Butters that you have, and the stag I raised from one of my favorite hens that I got from Mr. Butters. I also bred from a very fine cock that I got from Mr. Butters, and out of his favorite hens, and from his old imported cock." "I tried the old cock, and had him cut up as bad as a cock could be to live, to see if I could hack him, but there is no such a thing as cowering a Sumatra. The one that I am breeding from now is little better than a year old, and I should not fear losing my head, if it were at stake, that he would stand being cut up, as long as life lasted, limb by limb, and fight as long as the last breath lasted."

Mr. Smith never breeds from any but the very best fowls, and permits his hens to sit whenever the notion takes them, thereby raising more vigorous chickens, and not like some folks, when a hen is known to be of a valuable breed, keep her always laying, in order to produce eggs for sale at a high price, thereby producing puny chicks.

It will be seen by the above that my fowls are from favorite stock. I will not tell your readers, Messrs. Editors, what I paid for them, as I fear it would frighten them. I hope you will excuse the great length of this article.

Yours, F. E. MARTIN.
Pendleton, November, 1853.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Herds Grass Preferable to any other for a Southern Climate.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Now for something about grass sowing, &c. Herds Grass is most decidedly the best grass for the farmer south of latitude 35 degrees, as no grass, in my opinion, is profitable for hay making in the South, but profitable only for

grazing. Timothy has had several trials, with Blue Grass and other grasses, in Hall County, Georgia. As I do not consider Clover a grass, but an herb, I shall say nothing about it under this head. The best time to sow Herds grass is in September or October. The people of Kentucky and Tennessee will tell you to sow in the spring, or when you sow oats; but in our climate, when sown at that time, it is slow to come up, and in the mean time, the spontaneous growths of the land spring up and choke it out. Sow in the fore part of the fall or autumn. It will begin to take root before the dead of winter sets in; the next spring it is in a situation to take a start with the natural growth of the ground, it will go to seed in June, but when sown in the spring, will not go to seed until the next year.

There should be sown at least two bushels of seed per acre, the seed of Herds grass being very light and chaffy. Mix it with sand, in order to sow it regularly.

This grass has a peculiar advantage over all other grass for grazing, as it grows most prolific in the shade, therefore we can make a pasture for our milk cows, calves, mule colts, &c., by fencing and shrubbing off the undergrowth, so as to plow the ground and put in the seed, thereby preserving all the timber on the land. Manner of sowing precisely that of turnips. Break up the land, sow and brush in. In old land I prefer the harrow to the brush.

All stock I have is fonder of this grass than any other on my plantation. To keep it steadily from year to year for a pasture, you must run a small coulter through it, six inches apart, so as not to turn any of it over. Let the coulter run deep, so as to loosen the ground underneath, which has been trod down by the stock grazing thereon; this to be done between 15th of November and 15th of December; no how after the first of January.

As to clover, I think it most valuable for hogs. For clover to thrive well with us in a warm climate, we should manure the land well before sowing. Now, Herds grass will grow on any land, upland or bottom, but thriving best in bottom land.

What I have said here I know from actual experience and observation, and would not have said this much, but I feel the advantage of having pastures of Herds grass. A few years back, I did not pretend to raise my own oxen; they did not grow large enough for oxen; but now, instead of buying, I am raising my own work steers. I had no idea of the worth of a

Herds grass pasture until three years ago. I concluded my grass had sufficient hold, and I would turn my milk cows on it, and did so; in a few days thereafter I heard the Negro woman that milks cry out the churn was running over. Since that time I have paid particular attention to Herds grass.

JOHN CLARK.

Sept. 13, 1853.

Encouragement.

For the Farmer and Planter.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Hoping what I shall write will be received in good faith by our friends, the tillers of the soil, I will not hesitate to say it. I propose that every friend of the Farmer and Planter make you a New Year's present, for your anxiety and trouble over our noble profession. I propose that every subscriber on your list will look out some one, get his name and money, and send it on, ready for the January number. Also, all subscriptions that fall due on the first of January, renew them. I appeal to you, brother farmers, to do your duty. Our paper will be doubly valuable, by calling to its aid more experience and more capital to improve it. What would become of the paper, if it was not for the noble efforts of a few? And if they can do so much, what will it be if the whole strength of the Farmer and Planter is put to the wheel.

I think, Mr. Editor, I have not appealed to my craft in vain. Your heart will be made glad, your paper for printing the January number on will run out, and all hearts will be made to feel proud in looking over your next year's subscription list.

I promise you I will send one, and more, if I can. And once more, brother farmers, let me beg you not to put off hunting up your man. Secure him—have everything ready, and let us see if we can't send on so many names that the Editors' printing paper will be exhausted.

Yours, PINEY WOODS.
Sept. 8, 1853.

Economical Family Pudding.—Bruise with a wooden spoon, through a colander, six large or twelve middle-sized boiled potatoes; beat four eggs, mix with a pint of good milk, stir in the potatoes, sugar and seasoning to taste, butter a dish; bake half an hour. This receipt is simple and economical, as it is made of what is wasted in most families, viz: cold potatoes, which may be kept two or three days, till a sufficient quantity is collected. It is a weekly dish at our table. A teaspoonful of Scotch ship marmalade makes a delicious seasoning.

From the Newberry Sentinel.

REPORT

Read before the Newberry Agricultural Society at its late Anniversary on the 27th and 28th of July.

The day has passed when an exclusive preference was given to the horse over every other kind of motive power. The humbug coach has given place to the whirling car—the driver who flourished forth the observed of all observers, the great man of little boys, is numbered among the things that were—the iron horse, freighted with the rich treasures of a teeming country, has surpassed the plodding roadster. For all other heavy work in the South the mule has and will supersede the horse; every farmer who consults his interests will change his horses to mules. His average life is double that of the horse. It is said Mr. Ridgley of Maryland has a team that had worked together twenty-four years. Skinner, in an agricultural speech, quotes from the Pickwick papers, in which Sammy Weller asks the coachman,

"Did you ever see a dead donkey?"

"No."

"Did you ever see a man that had seen a dead donkey?"

"No."

"Did you ever see a man that had seen any other man that ever saw a dead donkey?"

"No."

Notwithstanding he is the butt for every jest, yet by his homely virtues and intrinsic merits, he is rising in general estimation, and occupies the most important place upon the farm. Again, the cruel and barbarous practice of racing is fast giving back before the light of virtue and morality; so that there is but a small place left for the horse to fill, and for that place we need a different stock from our present one. 'Tis true, we no longer see ten or twelve lank-sided, long-legged, neighing stallions, trotting in high style around our court house, to the great glee of the youngsters, and the annoyance of the staid part of the community. But occasionally a piebald, spotted or skubald, announces, by his long neighing, that he is willing to serve the community for a reasonable compensation, by giving them such quantities of fancy colored horses as they may desire.

Since the introduction of railroads, and the immense increase in wealth and population, it is to be hoped, at least, the old bogs called roads will give place to well built roads. It would save a great deal in

the wear and tear of horse flesh; it would save enough to plank every road in Newberry District in the course of twenty or thirty years. We now want the saddle horse, the carriage horse, the charger and the brood mare. The saddle horse is a matter of fancy—one wanting a pacer who can go his mile in three minutes, if he is as rough as a flaxbreak; another wants a trotting horse. In saddle horses, every one to his notion. I have never seen a fine specimen of the carriage horse. He should be of good size. Every feature should give animation to the countenance; the forehead broad and flat, the eye staring and full of fire, the ears thin, fine and often erect, the nostrils circular, dilated and reddened within, the lips soft, thin and hairless, the jaw extended and the cheeks well marked,

"Fire from his eyes and clouds from his nostrils flow,

With neck like a rainbow erecting his crest."

Add to all this a tail in perfection, and you have the charger. "The horse that carries two good ends always looks grand, is a perfect gentleman in his appearance." To all this he should be of strong, muscular, fast trotting stock; some of the famous fast trotting Mambrino stock.

The brood mare, also, claims our attention. Here we confess ourselves somewhat at fault. This would more appropriately come up under the subject of mules. To give a mule fine size and activity a great deal depends upon the dam. She should be large, roomy, well bred, fine forehanded and flat-legged.

The horse is the noblest of all irrational animals, and repays care and kindness in every way possible, and should not be left to the tender mercies of the Negro. Of the proper manner of raising, keeping and training horses much should here be said. I shall try hereafter and give some views on that branch of the subject. As we need but few horses, they should be good. It is as easy to raise and as cheap to feed a good, serviceable horse, as a miserable pad. Let him be humanely treated and kindly raised, and, like the dog, he will never forget you.

Respectfully, J. M. CROSSON.

For the Farmer and Planter.
Abbeville to Pry.

Messrs Editors:—We are glad to see friend Pry defend himself so well, and so good-humoredly. This is as it should be. We find him not tinctured with the absurdity of Mallet's gradual development fictions, but we notice he favors a sort of "presto" metamorphosis, where he char-

ges Abbeville with being "no coon," but a bona fide fox. There is a kind of romance in Pry's defence that pleases Abbeville, be he fox or coon, and if the characteristics of the fox belong to us, we say to the "old hunter" we are always ready for a chase over the fields of nature, and promise him never to run into a circle that we can't run out of. We would say to Pry, we are pretty well pleased with our deep plowing, and, as he will have it "ruinous root cutting"—we shall have plenty of *little cars*, but few *big ones*, but of both together enough, after a three month's drought in the midst of the corn growing season.—Can Pry say as much for the genus "skinner?"

ABBEVILLE.



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLITON, S. C.

Vol. IV., No. 11.: : : November, 1853.

H. P. DOWDNEY, of Alabama, is an authorized agent for the *Farmer & Planter*.

Dr. O. S. BENTLEY, of Atlanta, Ga., is our authorized Agent for the *Farmer & Planter*.

The Rev. THOMAS DAWSON, of Beaufort District, is appointed an agent of the *Farmer and Planter*.

Frost.—A light one was reported in our vicinity on the 4th October, but up to this time (10th) we have seen none of its effects, though the nights and mornings are quite cool, and after the next rain we shall look out for a "swinger."

A subscriber at Boykin's Depot, under date of October 6, writes us to send his *Farmer and Planter* to Camden, but does not sign his name. If he will give us his name we will be happy to make the alteration.

Southern Fair.

Before this number is received by our subscribers the great Southern Fair at Augusta, will be over. Many of our friends, as well as ourselves, who were anxious to meet our neighbors on that occasion, may have been disappointed.—We much regret that it is so with us. We cannot even attend the annual agricultural meeting of the Greenville Society, our near neighbors, but so it is. Would that we had as much time to take pleasure trips on rail roads, &c., as many of our brethren of the press seem to have. However, there is yet a good time coming, we

hope. The approaching meeting of the "Agricultural Association of the Planting States," will take place on Thursday, the first day of December next, at Columbia, S. C. See notice of the Executive Council on our advertising sheet, and be certain to attend—if you can.

The Fair of the S. C. Institute has been postponed till Nov. '54.

Crops.

From every quarter we have reports of light cotton crops. The drought, the excessive rains, the boll-worm and rot have made light work for cotton pickers; and although it is an old song, there can be no doubt, we think, of a crop greatly reduced below that of last year. The corn crop in the up country, though comparatively light, will be sufficient for all purposes, except being converted into "mountain dew." The wheat crop, as heretofore stated, was uncommonly good. The grain, generally, is heavier than we have ever known raised in the South. The oat crop was light, but we trust our subscribers have made up the deficiency by planting corn, peas, &c. &c., for winter provender. The pea crop will be light, so save all the seed you can for a good market next spring. We understand the rice crop is coming in well. The sweet potato crop, from all we can hear, will be very light in the up country. And last, though by no means least, the pork crop at home does not flatter with the hope of sopping both sides of our bread through the next year. Pork will probably come in from Kentucky and Tennessee at a lower figure than we were compelled to give last season, but unfortunately our cotton crop will be so light we shall have nothing to buy with. If our Kentucky stock drovers calculate on getting prices for pork in proportion to what they are now asking for horses and mules, many of them are right sure to carry disappointment instead of S. C. bank bills home with them.

Millet.

In our last number we promised "Virginian" some further report from our wheat lot, on which was then growing a crop of Millet, for hay. It will be recollected that the lot was sown in wheat on the 5th of January, and produced at the rate of from 17 to 18 bushels of good wheat to the acre. Some time in July—late, we think—the date we find we have neglected to note—the lot was depastured of a pretty good coat of joint grass, with which it is infested, and which, no doubt, lessened the product of both wheat and millet, as turning it down, which would kill most other grasses, only puts it in a good way of growing. It was afterwards turned with a good two-horse centre draft plow, which was followed by an iron toothed harrow, passed two or three times over the lot, in different directions. The seed were then sown at the rate of a half bushel per acre. A gallon of red clover and a peck of Herds grass seed were also sown, followed by the harrow and roller. The millet came up in a few days and grew off finely to the time of cutting, the 3d of October, when about half of it was in head. To ascertain what the crop would weigh, we cut a through of ten

feet, which we think was rather under than over an average of the lot. The weight was 1,063 pounds. This multiplied by 15, the number of ten feet lands in the lot, made 15,045 pounds on the lot of eight-tenths of an acre, being at the rate of 18,806 pounds, or 8 tons and 886 pounds per acre. We have not ascertained the dry weight, but think it will amount to at least 4 tons per acre. Our neighbor, R. A. MAXWELL, informs us he raised a lot of millet a few years since which weighed green 20,000 pounds per acre, and when cured, half that amount. Ours was well spread out one day to a hot sun, before weighing, when it was considerably wilted, and must have lost some weight.

Mr. MAXWELL informs us the millet was an excellent hay. Why any man should abandon its culture, producing, as it does, of good hay, double or treble the amount of the best Northern meadows, we can't imagine. The price we paid for seed, \$7½ per bushel, was a shameful imposition, but even at that price we think one may well afford to save millet in preference to pulling corn blades, and we prefer it to corn raised for fodder alone, on account of its susceptibility of being more easily cured than the latter. But as to seven dollars and a half for the seed, it is an outrage on all decent extortion. If we could get a contract for all the seed we could raise at three dollars, we would never plant another seed of cotton, or attempt making any other produce for market.

Rescue Grass.

The following letter from a subscriber in Spartanburg District, with an answer from Mr. IVERSON, relative to the above Grass, will be interesting to many of our subscribers throughout the South. This Grass seems to be the "one thing needful" with Southern farmers and planters. Since the receipt of these letters we have received one from Mr. IVERSON on the same subject. As it contains nothing materially differing from this, however, we deem it unnecessary to publish both.

We shall be pleased to receive the reports on Guano, &c., from J. C. O.

NEW HOPE P. O., Sept. 9, 1853.

Messrs. Editors: I send you enclosed a letter received by me from Mr. J. B. Iversen of Columbus, Georgia, in reply to mine, requesting him to forward me some of his Rescue Grass seed. Having seen an article in the Mercury praising it very highly for grazing purposes, and in reclaiming exhausted land, I thought I would purchase a few seed and give it a trial. This letter contains valuable instructions for those who intend purchasing the seed; and if you think its publication will add to the agricultural interest of our country, you are at liberty to insert it in your excellent agricultural paper.

I intend experimenting next year with one ton of Peruvian Guano and one-half

ton of plaster, on wheat and cotton, and if you desire it I will write you, next year, my mode of applying it, and also the success or failure of my experiment. I used last spring one bag, on a small patch of corn, about one acre, adjoining the same amount of land planted in corn, well manured. I will note the relative amounts gathered in each parcel of land, and can then ascertain what I will make by the manure.

Wishing you every success, I remain yours, respectfully, J. C. O.

COLUMBUS, Aug. 29, 1853.

Dear Sir: I have received your kind letter, enclosing one dollar, with a request that I would send you that amount of the seed of my Rescue Grass, &c. I regret very much that I cannot comply with your request at this time. The very great and constantly increasing demand made and making for seed has put it out of my power to supply any to any one this year. It will require all the seed I have (about 20 bushels) to enable me to raise enough for all, the coming year. I have been compelled to refuse all applications for seed, for this fall's sowing. I so stated in my published article about this grass, that I could only furnish applicants with the seed the next year. Every one wants to begin immediately, which would take all my seed, and leave none for my own plantation, which I want to stock first. Next year I will be able to furnish every one. I am keeping a book in which I enter the names and residence of each person engaging seed, and as soon next year as I can they shall all be supplied.

This grass is all I describe it to be. It will come up to my description of it in every particular. It is the most valuable grass for the South that ever was introduced, for winter and spring grazing, for making the finest hay, and that in vast quantities, so easily cradled. For soiling, reclaiming and fertilizing exhausted fields it has no superior. I must ask you to aid me in getting your friends and neighbors to get and use it. I do not wish to sell less nor more than one peck of the seed to each person, as that quantity will produce seed enough the first year to sow down ten acres or more the second year.

The first year you will sow the seed in drills, in rich ground, 20 inches apart, the last of September or early in October, which is all it needs. You can graze your stock on it till June, when they should be turned off, so it can go to seed. It is best to do this in May; or you can cut i

for them a great many times. After the seeds ripen they fall out very easily. You will shake the heads by grasping a handful over a basket; but plenty of them will escape and fall to the ground to ensure a stand for the next fall and winter. You can then turn under the grass; previously, however, sow the old fashioned cornfield pea broadcast over the field, on the grass; then turn all under, grass, peas and grass seeds. In the fall save the peas, and if you can, now spread a coat of lime or plaster over the field, and turn it under with the vines. The grass seeds will now come up, and give you a winter and spring grazing pasture, which will do you good to look at, and much more so your stock to enjoy. Now on this plan you can restore your worn-out fields, when you get plenty of the grass-seeds. It will be found the easiest, the cheapest, the simplest, the surest and at the same time the most profitable plan in reclaiming and fertilizing your tired fields, that the ingenuity of man can devise, graze and improve the stock throughout that trying period of the year, to wit, winter and spring, thereby saving the corn and fodder for ploughing time, give shade to the field in summer, furnish a crop of peas, one of the richest foods for man and beast, return two vast coats of vegetable mould to the ground in one year, keep the ground from washing, and lastly, make you such large crops that you will not wish to break up and fly off to Texas, or some other bad country, and abandon the "old plantation and the young folks at home."

I know from actual experiment that what I say is true, and if the planters of South Carolina would only adopt it, it would be worth more to them and to those who will certainly need their fields after you and I are dead and gone than all the gold which has been dug or ever will be dug in California, if it could all be run into dollars and divided among them.

Wishing you and yours every earthly blessing, I remain your obedient servant,
B. V. IVERSON.

P. S. Tell your friends to send on their names and P. O. \$5 is the price of a peck of the seeds. They are worth \$50. A peck will sow an acre.

Would it suit you to get the seed next year at Greenville C. H? I can send a quantity there by railroad for your section of the State.
B. V. I.

Half Flesh Half Fish.

We would say to friend "Abbeville," we do not endorse every thing that we pass unnoticed in the Farmer and Planter. If we find an article

with some good wheat in it, we send it to our readers to separate the chaff and other foreign matter to their taste. If we were to attempt separating what might appear to us objectionable in every article we publish, we should undertake more than is usually done by editors.

Messrs. Editors:—We would beg leave to notice that the doctrines of the Telliamed are revived by the "Register," and from silence, or want of notice, endorsed by the Farmer and Planter. Just hear what the Register has said, "This pile or heap of matter is the manure excrement of a bird of singular kind, *it being half fish and half fowl*, and at the discovery of the Island so numerous were they, that you had to kick them out of your way, they were so numerous that the appearance of the Island was that of a dark cloud."

In all works like the Farmer and Planter, nature should be faithfully represented—our love for the natural sciences, with some State pride, makes us feel mortified when nature is misrepresented in our own papers, and it is from this feeling, that Abbeville subjects himself to another chase from Pry, or any other adept at hunting the fox. We like the information presented in the article on guano, and but for the "fish and fowl" part, it would look well. Lamareck would have hailed as a triumph this "half fish and half fowl," as it would have in some way served to establish the development theory, but it goes a step too far, even, for the wild extravagances of Maillet, where the fish under the fanciful laws of *appetency*, becomes a bird." Deacon Barnum might make a pretty good mermaid out of one of these chaps, without making a "seam" for lawyers and philosophers to quarrel about. We have examined bags of guano for the remains of the birds, and found one leg and foot well preserved, which proved to belong to the present penguins. There is no such a thing in nature as a half fish and half fowl animal—not even as a monstrosity. The two animals are too far apart for this kind of union. Geology acknowledges gradation in animal creation, but nowhere recognises progress. A fish is forever a fish, and a bird will remain a bird, if judge the future by the past. There is a specialization in all creation. So thinks

ABBEVILLE.

From the Charleston Mercury.
Agricultural Science.

In my communication of yesterday, I confined my remarks to the inadequate provision, or rather the absence of all provision in our system of education, for imparting instruction in agriculture to our

youth who are graduated at college. Educated men are not so taught, it is hardly necessary to say that our less cultivated class is in no better condition—that the men whose peculiar business it is to supervise the agricultural operations of the State never learn the first principles of agriculture.

These men, the overseers of the country, constitute a very important part of our people. The prosperity of the State, its safety indeed, is to a large extent in their hands. During the summer especially, the most valuable estates are entrusted exclusively to their judgment and skill.—A wide extent of country, embracing a dense negro population, depends for months on the conduct and character of a few overseers. Is it not of the highest importance to the State to elevate that character?—Should it not be made to appear that the country duly values their important services? Ought not the State to make some effort to increase their usefulness, by giving them higher views of the importance of their calling, and by instructing them in its first principles? They should be educated as farmers and managers of slaves. It is of the last importance to the welfare of the State that its overseers should be regularly and systematically taught every thing necessary to an upright and enlightened performance of their duties. There is no doubt indeed, that it is the part of the Republic to educate all its citizens, and each one with a view to the pursuit in which he is about to engage. This adaptation of education to the end proposed, whatever that end may be, is essential to every enlightened system of instruction. But above all is it necessary for those who are to superintend the farming of the country. Ignorance in their case is prejudicial, not to the individual only, but to the hundreds whom he directs, to the parties by whom he is employed, to the resources of the State itself.

It is common enough to hear men speak disparagingly of overseers. Certainly there are many of them to whom serious objection may be made; but, considering them as a class, the only wonder is that they discharge their duties as faithfully as they do, in the absence of every particle of instruction in any one of the important offices they necessarily fill.

But if they are deficient and incapable, will the complaint or derision of the employer provide a remedy? Employed they must be. What then remains for the planter but to urge the application of the proper means for rendering them more intelligent and useful? These means are

adequate instruction in his business.—There, as elsewhere, knowledge is power. And this, like every other branch or department of knowledge, must be acquired, and does not come by nature.

And yet, to judge from the course pursued by our people, in reference to agricultural improvements, one might fairly conclude that our conviction is quite the reverse. We seem to think that a planter acquires, with his plantation, sufficient knowledge of the mode by which it may be efficiently managed, without an effort to learn it. The consequence is that he is unable, in a proper manner, to conduct the simplest farming operation. He is unable to cut a ditch intelligently, or with a certainty that he is about to accomplish the end proposed. He knows nothing about ascertaining the level of the land over which his work is about to be carried. It is quite possible that, after a great deal of labor thrown away, he ascertains that the proposed outlet of his ditch is higher than the beginning. It is all guesswork. His only preparation for his life's occupation is learning to construe Horace, to deliver a declamation, and acquire a sufficient familiarity with the gods, goddesses, and heroes of ancient times. The preparation of the overseer is equally left to nature.—He has seen or handled a shovel plow on a sand hill or pine-wood farm, or patch of corn and potatoes. He can write an intelligent letter. With this amount of preparatory training, he takes charge of the health and comfort of a hundred slaves, and conducts the complicated concerns of a large plantation. The proprietor knows nothing practically or theoretically, the overseer is no better prepared for the business. Is it at all surprising that the agriculture of the country is in so deplorable a state? Can we wonder that within ten miles of the city of Charleston, the Queen City of the South, as some are pleased to call her, land of excellent quality bears a nominal value, that large bodies of it lie uncultivated, that plantations of great fertility, after having been cleared with great labor and cultivated after our imperfect modes, stand unoccupied and abandoned? And yet all this, lamentable as it is, excites no surprise and commands no attention. It is the natural result of our ignorance in our business.

I have made an imperfect statement of the evil under which we labor. The more it is examined, the more apparent and intolerable will it prove to be. A proper consideration of it must result in some attempt on the part of the State to ap-

ply an adequate remedy. I earnestly request, Messrs. Editors, that you will press this consideration of the evil, and call for the adequate remedy. You cannot give your labors to a subject more vitally important to the welfare of South Carolina.

I will not presume to suppose that I can point out the fit mode of removing this monstrous grievance and deficiency in our State economy. With a view only to invite attention, and the hope of drawing more competent minds to the consideration of the subject, I will merely suggest what seems to me a proper beginning of a better condition of affairs. Let the Legislature establish a Professorship of Agriculture in the South Carolina College, and attach to the institution an experimental farm. In this farm, every farming process may be carried on in conformity with the most scientific practices of Europe.—This would produce the good effect not only of imparting instruction to the student, but would at once elevate the pursuit in public estimation, and relieve the community from the misfortune that now afflicts us, of young men crowding into professions, and living idly and uselessly in these supposed positions of honor. In addition to the Professorship, it may be advisable to establish in due time three Agricultural schools and farms, one of each in the upper, central, and lower part of the State. Competent teachers for these would be furnished by the college Professorship. In these schools young men of all classes may find adequate instruction.

But they would be particularly important in preparing for the business of the farm or the plantation, those who may be disposed to devote themselves to the occupation of an overseer. It is easy I think, to see how rapidly and effectually this would improve the characters and capabilities of that useful and indispensable class of men, and how much it would elevate and advance the condition and welfare of the whole State. But, gentlemen. I leave the subject to yourselves and your abler correspondents, content and rejoiced if I should succeed in fixing attention effectually on the necessity of investigating the matter carefully, and applying some sufficient and lasting remedy.

AGRICOLA.

A lump of wet saleratus, applied to the sting of a wasp or bee, will stop the pain in one moment, and prevent it from swelling. Try it and see. It is a sure remedy for rattlesnake bites, if applied immediately, and always at hand. Be sure and remember it.

Lamb Soup.—Take a neck and breast of lamb, wash it, and to each pound of meat add a quart of water and a teaspoonful of salt. Pare and slice two onions, two carrots, four turnips, two or three potatoes and a bunch of sweet herbs. Add all these to the meat after it has boiled one hour. If in the proper season, add three or four tomatoes or half a dozen okras.

When the vegetables are done, take out the meat, and add some flour mixed to a smooth paste with a little water. Noodles or dumplings may be added, as for beef soup. Some thicken lamb soup with a little rice put in the pot with the lamb.

To Cleanse Feather Beds and Mattresses.—When feather beds become solid or heavy, they may be made light by being treated in the following manner:—Rub them over with a stiff brush, dipped in hot soap suds. When clean lay them on a shed, or any other clean place, where the rain will fall on them. When thoroughly soaked, let them dry in a hot sun for six or seven successive days, shaking them well, and turning them over each day. They should be covered over with a thick cloth during the night; if exposed to the night are they will become damp, and mildew. This way of washing the bed tick and feathers, makes them very fresh and light and it is much easier than the old fashioned way of emptying the beds, and washing the feathers separately, while it answers quite as well. Care must be taken to dry the bed perfectly before sleeping on it. Hair mattresses that have become hard and dirty, can be made nearly as good as new by ripping them, washing the ticking, and picking the hair free from bunches, and keeping it in a dry, airy place several days. When the ticking is dry fill it lightly with the hair, and tack it together.

Apple Bread.—Take two parts of flour to one part of apple stewed; stir them quite warm into the flour, put in a little yeast, knead it without water; the fruit being sufficient. Let it remain in the pan to rise for twelve hours, then put it into small pans and bake it. It makes very light and palatable bread.

Etmek Shaker—Queen's Bread.—Slice as much bread as is needed; soak each slice, first in milk and then in egg well beaten; have it quickly fried with lard or butter; make a thick syrup of loaf sugar and water, and pour it over the bread whilst hot; grate nutmeg over it. This will be found simple and delicious.